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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-36

Thiabendazole

(publié aussi en français)

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Publications
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6604-E2
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Internet: pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra
Facsimile: 613-736-3758
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or 613-736-3799
pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

Canada

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of new uses on white button mushrooms to the product label of Mertect SC Fungicide, containing technical grade thiabendazole, is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Mertect SC Fungicide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 13975.

The evaluation of this thiabendazole application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and that the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for thiabendazole is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRL is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRL for thiabendazole in Canada in or on food, to be added to the MRLs already legally established, is as follows:

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Thiabendazole

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL	Food Commodity
Thiabendazole	2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazole	55	White button mushrooms

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Programs and Special Actions/Minor Use/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2009-4482.

International Situation and Trade Implications

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. As per Table 2, the proposed MRL for thiabendazole in Canada differs from both the corresponding tolerance established in the United States (tolerances listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide) and the Codex MRL[2]. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRL, American Tolerance and Codex MRL

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
White button mushrooms	55	40 ("Mushroom")	60 ("Mushrooms")

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for thiabendazole up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL for thiabendazole and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[2] Codex is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.